Larry Harris

News-Texan Special from Garland

When Larry Harris was 11, something happened that changed his life.

Almost 13 years ago to the day — Nov. 22, 1963 — Harris was sitting in his classroom at Daugherty Elementary School when his teacher, Mrs. Nell Stone, ran into the room crying.

"She told us something bad had happened to President Kennedy. We were told later that he had been shot and killed," Harris recalled.

Since that fateful November day, the assassination of Kennedy has become an obsession with Harris. And fueling his obsession for the truth, Harris said, was the Warren Commission Report.

Harris, 24, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Harris, 1933 Delmar Dr.

The 227-page volume, titled "Cover-up," is co-authored by J. Gary Shaw and Harris. Shaw is an architect from Cleburne who, like Harris, has been probing the facts surrounding the assassination since the release of the Warren Commission Report. **THE TITLE** of the book echoes the researchers' estimate of the Warren Commission Report. The booh is subtitled "The Governmental Conspiracy to Conceal the Facts About the Public Execution of John Kennedy."

"No jury today would ever have convicted Lee Harvey Oswald," Harris bluntly said.

"Lee Harvey Oswald was not an assassin. He did not fire a shot that day — at President Kennedy or officer J.D. Tippit.

"He was, in fact, a patsy in the assassination," Harris said. "And whoever carried out the killing went to a lot of trouble to set Oswald up for the assassination.

"We believe there was a massive conspiracy perhaps involving some of the higher officials of our government — at that time it was the Central Intelligence Agency," Harris said.

The 1970 grad of Garland High has made an assiduous study of the events that took place that gray November day. His book is filled photographs — many of which are published /with hundreds of/ for the first time — and every statement is documented with notes after each chapter.

"OSWALD WAS set up. A paraffin test administered Oswald that afternoon turned out negative on his cheek, which means he could not have fired a rifle without getting traces of nitrate gun powder. That would have been a strong indicator at any trial," Harris contends.

And about his shooting of Tippit, Harris says, "There is no evidence linking Oswald with his murder. There was a jacket found at the scene, but it was never traced to Oswald. Eye witnesses' descriptions of the killer are in great variance. The odd thing about it is there were four shells thrown down while the killer was running. Three of the shells were Remington and one was a Winchester. Bullets found in Tippit show two were Remington and two were Winchester. The Warren report never adequately explained that."

An interesting thing about Harris is that he says he doesn't enjoy doing this research. Despite untold hours and money spent on his study, Harris finds it "very frustrating."

"It is very complex, it is time consuming and most of all it is frustrating. I don't enjoy doing it but it has to be done. I feel it is that important."

On the cover of Harris' book is an American flag. Covering the flag is a black outline of the Pentagon with pictures of people Harris feels are important to the complete story. People like J. Edgar Hoover, Earl Warren, Gerald Ford and Lyndon Johnson.

HARRIS TELLS how these people — along with many others — are involved in the events of that day.

In the center of this outline of the Pentagon is one of the most dramatic pictures ever taken. It is a frame from the film taken by Dallas dress maker Abraham Zapruder. It shows Kennedy clutching his throat.

"The Zapruder film is perhaps the most important piece of film ever taken on this planet," Harris said. "It is the single most important piece of evidence. It alone destroys the findings of the Warren Commission.

"Because of th film we know the shooting lasted no more than six seconds. But there were so many wounds and evidence of other bullets in the area it would have taken one man 12 seconds."

"This created a problem for the Warren Commission," Harris said. "So they had to double up and have one bullet passing through Kennedy and Connally — causing seven wounds in both men. This is known as the single bullet theory.

"It holds that the bullet hit Kennedy in the base of the neck at a downward angle, exited through his throat at an upward angle — even though the Parkland doctors described this wound as an entrance wound —paused in mid-air for about a second and then made a right turn and a left turn and then went through John Connally's chest, through his wrist an into his thigh."

Harris points out in th book that the bullet w found on a stretcher Parkland Hospital lat that day. The stretch

hunts JFK killers

however, was unrelated to the care of either Kennedy or Connally.

ALSO, HARRIS notes, the bullet is in pristine condition, despite the numerous wounds it inflicted.

"Also, I might add," Harris said, "that Jack Ruby was seen and photographed at Parkland Hospital that afternoon."

Ruby was the man seen in a live television broadcast shooting and killing Oswald.

Harris claimed the Warren Commission performed "verbal plastic surgery" in their explanation of the wounds inflicted upon Kennedy.

Another major point of interest, Harris said, is Ruby himself.

Ruby had close ties with the Dallas Police Dept., Harris . said. And the FBI has admitted he was an informer for them.

According to Harris, Ruby just did not wander into the basement of the Dallas jail, see a smurk on Oswald's face and then shoot him, as the Warren Commission states.

"Ruby was escorted into the basement by then assistant police chief Charles Bachelor. That is very important. It suggests he was brought in for the expressed purpose of killing Oswald. It suggests that," Harris said, "but I'm not sure."

THESE ARE only some of the hundreds of documented arguments Harris gives for believing the Warren Report is a cover-up.

The list goes on and on. Detailed information about Oswald's trip to Russia, his rifle, pictures of the bullet supposedly used in the assassination, eye-witness interviews, maps of the parade route — a route which Harris says was against Secret Service regulations and detailed information from the autopsy are all included in the book.

"We wrote this book as simply and as concisely as possible," Harris said. "We didn't linger too long on any one area and we put in photos to accompany the text. It is a very important book for any beginner in this subject."